

Sex Offender Arrested for Viewing Child Porn at Library

HARTFORD (AP) -- Hartford police say a convicted sex offender has been arrested for viewing child pornography on a computer at the Hartford public library.

Police say 36-year-old Scott Murtagh has served time in federal prison after he was caught soliciting sex from boys over the Internet.

He was arrested yesterday after he was allegedly caught looking at child porn at the main branch of the library. Police say security officers saw Murtagh viewing child pornography from a public computer in the adult section of the library.

Murtagh is listed on the Connecticut Department of Public Safety's Sex Offender Registry. He was arrested in February of 1998 at the Union train Station in Hartford, after he had arranged a meeting with a 14-year-old boy during an online chat.

Several months after Murtagh was released on bail in that case, he was caught a second time soliciting sex over the Internet by law enforcement officers in New Hampshire, who were investigating adults soliciting youths for sex.

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Library Porn Harasses Librarians, Agency Says By Kenneth L. Ervin, II

The presence of Internet pornography creates a sexually hostile work environment for librarians, according to a federal agency. The ruling by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) marks the first time that a public agency has acknowledged that Internet porn presents this kind of problem for librarians.

A dozen Minneapolis librarians had filed a complaint that the open Internet use policy of the Minneapolis library system violated their rights under Title 7 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The profusion of pornographic images and the spectacle of men and boys getting sexually excited in the library made female librarians especially uncomfortable.

"We knew it was just a matter of time before some dedicated librarians would stand up to the American Library Association (ALA) and rescue their library," said Janet LaRue, director of legal studies for the Family Research Council. "The EEOC's decision is both legally correct and amply justified." The ALA has long opposed library Internet filters on free speech grounds and is on record supporting children's access to all materials, even hard-core pornography.

LaRue called on library boards across the country to utilize blocking technology to keep illegal pornography from turning their library into a sexually hostile work environment like Minneapolis. "A public library is supposed to be a place dedicated to quiet, to knowledge, and to beauty, not a dirty peep show open to kids and funded by taxpayers," said LaRue.

Robert Knight, Director of CWA's Culture & Family Institute, said the Minnesota decision might restore some sanity in public libraries, and curtail the ALA's pro-"pornographers' rights" policies.

"It is amazing that the ALA considers accessing Internet perversion in a public space a 'free speech' issue," Knight said. "Perhaps now they'll do what they should have done long ago and take some simple steps to protect librarians and library patrons from this filth." May 31, 2001 Table of Contents, http://cultureandfamily.org/report/2001-05-31/l_minneapolis.shtml

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Convicted Sex Offender Busted In Perris Library

CBS) PERRIS, Calif. A convicted sex offender was arrested for suspicion of violating probation after being seen using a computer to download pornography at a library, authorities said Friday.

Michael Robert Clark, 56, of Menifee, was under investigation by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department for allegedly watching and printing pornography from a computer, according to Sgt. Jon Anderson.

Investigators found that Clark had accessed a Web site, and was in possession of pornographic photographs, which were recovered by authorities.

The photographs appeared to be of adults.

Clark was booked yesterday into Robert Presley Detention Center in Riverside and released Friday, county records show.

Anderson said Clark was convicted of attempted child molestation and using e-mail to seduce a minor in 2002 in Los Angeles County. He was arrested at a pizza parlor, where he arranged to meet the child.

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SEX OFFENDER ARRESTED AGAIN

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

He is a registered child sex offender from Wichita Falls, and now he is back in custody for another aggravated sexual assault of a 3-year-old, plus six charges of possession of child pornography. You will never believe where this man claims he came across this sexually explicit material.

According to an affidavit, James Westfall downloaded and printed the pictures of children engaging in sex acts from computers at the Wichita Falls Public Library. Although the library users are free to surf where they please, on any given day about 800 people pass through the public library. In the last year 40,000 people accessed the Internet at the library. The library has policies in place that tell users not to damage the equipment or copy copyrighted material. It does not tell a person what they can and cannot look at.

Westfall claims he downloaded and printed the material at the library. Using computers there to find illegal material such as child pornography is against library policy, especially in the hands of a convicted child sex offender.

Anyone of the hundreds of people that pass through there each day are free to use the computers as they please, free of charge. Daily questions whether or not the pictures were actually printed at the library, since they are reported to be in color and the library has no color printers. Westfall is being held on around \$1 Million bond.

<http://www.kfdx.com/news/default.asp?mode=shownews&id=11299>